

**2014 Annual Report
Lifeline Utility Assistance Program**

Program Description

Established in 1979, Lifeline is a utility assistance program that offers \$225 to persons who meet the eligibility requirements for New Jersey's Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged or Disabled (PAAD) Program or who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This includes utility customers as well as tenants whose utility bills are included in their rent. Only one tenant in a household is entitled to a Lifeline utility assistance benefit. Lifeline provides for only electricity and natural gas in a person's primary residence only. Other fuels, such as bottled or propane gas, oil coal, or wood, are not covered.

How the \$225 Lifeline benefit is applied:

- If a person pays utility bills directly to a single utility company, a \$225 credit will appear on his/her utility bill.
- If a person receives service from two different companies, the \$225 credit will be divided equally between the two utilities.
- If the cost of a person's utilities is included in his/her rent, the person will receive a check for \$225.
- If a person pays utility bills to two different companies (with one bill in the person's name and the other in his/her spouse's name), the Lifeline credit will be divided equally and applied to each account.
- If a person receives SSI, monthly utility supplements totaling up to \$225 a year are included in his/her SSI checks.

No revisions to the Lifeline utility assistance program have been recommended at this time.

Quick Facts

State Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriation (estimate)	\$66,866,000
Total Recipients in State Fiscal Year 2013	304,534

Budget

State Fiscal Year 2013 Lifeline and Tenants' Assistance Program Expenditures	\$64,424,738
State Fiscal Year 2012 Lifeline and Tenants' Assistance Program Expenditures	\$63,435,830